



dependable election

official news for official folks

Bored of Elections?

Keep reading.

- 2010 is history
- commitment issues
- winning!
- training pants
- vote early or not
- it's the law

Happy Spring and Thanks!

Look around you. Durham is abuzz! Gardens are making food and flowers, new businesses are emerging, kids are playing, animals are sniffing, and people are engaged. Some news is true— great things are happening here.

You may recall that 2010 was a hot year for elections. We successfully conducted a General Election, one that included our first ever IRV race. The handheld scanner dropped new technology onto the scene and we were good and are getting better at adapting to the change. Three early voting sites helped 25k people conveniently cast their ballots. We did not receive any negative media attention or election protests. We were not sued or challenged. The choices of the people of Durham were accurately tabulated and reported. Together, we worked diligently to earn and maintain the trust of our public. Thank you for your service. You perform challenging work and its rewards are won by our entire community. Your pledge to civic duty is a big chunk of Durham's charm. From all of us at the Board of Elections, we wish to express our gratitude for what you do for us and your neighbors every election.

end = beginning

The 2009-2011 appointment term will end on Monday, 15 August. The local political parties must submit their recommendations for precinct officials to the Board prior to August. The appointment process is outlined in NC § 163-41.

In 2010 Durham County appointed a Republican Judge and a Democratic Judge in each precinct. It was awesome. I hope that you will consider keeping your post for the next 2 year term. Please contact me (Whitney!) if you have questions or fears regarding this commitment.



major stuff

In this issue:

- appointments **1**
- candidate filing **1**
- training and early voting **2**
- nc election legislation **2**

2011 Municipal Election (updated June 2011)

The next election will be in the fall of 2011. Durham will elect three city council at-large members and a mayor. City council members serve a four year term and the mayor serves a two year term. Currently these positions are held by council members Farad Ali, Eugene Brown, Diane Catotti, and Mayor Bill Bell.

Winners will survive a nonpartisan primary (if necessary) followed by the very necessary nonpartisan election. The primary might be held on Tuesday, 11 October. The election will definitely be held on Tuesday, 8 November.

When will we know if a primary is required? Can my cat run for council? Excellent questions.

Filing will begin at noon on Monday, 25 July and end at noon on Friday, 12 August. Filing will take place at the Board of Elections office at 706 W. Corporation St. The filing fee for city council and mayor will be in the ballpark of \$189 and \$222, respectively. In addition to paying the fees, candidates must be registered to vote in Durham, they must reside within the city limits of Durham, and they must be at least 21 years of age.

When filing has closed on 12 August, the BOE can determine if a primary is necessary. If three or more candidates file for mayor OR if seven or more candidates file for city council at-large, a primary will be held on 11 October. Mark those calendars! Inform your cat!



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Continuing Education

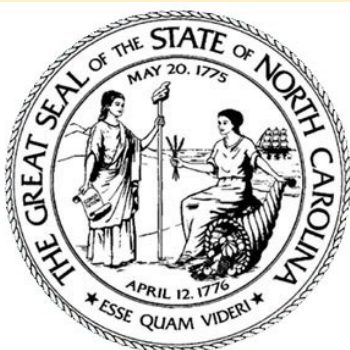
You are invited. Again. All training classes will be held at the Ivy Community Center in south Durham. Classes will cover topics in basic polling place administration, provisional voting, and equipment operation. You may or may not hear new jokes. You may or may not laugh. Barcode scanners will return, so prepare yourself for more hands-on action with beeps and sighs. Training calendars, one in the event of a primary and election AND another in the event of an election only, can be found on the BOE website. Check out the colorful calendars and other tidbits at www.durhamcountync.gov/elec. Amid the appointment process, you can expect a training calendar and relevant info in the summer mail.

PS. a gentle reminder to precinct officials who are assigned to work out of your home precinct on Election day: **PLEASE CONSIDER VOTING EARLY** rather than provisionally.



The BOE plans to open three early voting sites this fall. FYI- the BOE office will NOT be an early voting site. The County's Main library will be the central location with the North and South libraries serving as regional sites. The detailed schedule for early voting will be published on-line and in local newspapers prior to opening. If you are interested in working and/or voting at an early voting site, contact me for details.

voting early is the cornerstone of democracy



House Bill 351; or Restore Confidence in Government

With tobacco losing its thrill, the NC General Assembly is chewing on a voter photo ID bill. The bill has three primary sponsors: Representatives Lewis, T. Moore, and Killian. House Bill 351 was filed on Monday, 14 March.

NC voters, those supporting the bill and those opposing the bill, spoke passionately and publicly on Tuesday, 15 March in Raleigh. The sponsors of the bill say that its purpose is simply to restore confidence in the process and not to deny access. The challengers say that it will disenfranchise many voters who do not have photo ID, particularly elderly, minority, and disabled voters. The sponsors deny that the bill would violate the Voting Rights Act. Voters without the proper photo ID would be offered a provisional ballot.

Currently NC is one of twenty-three states that have the minimum HAVA (Help America Vote Act) ID requirements. First-time voters who register by mail and do not provide ID verification with their registration must show ID before voting. Eighteen states accept photo and non-photo ID.

Florida, Georgia, and Indiana are the only three states that require all voters to show a photo ID.

It is no surprise; voter photo ID sparks controversy all over the map. March was ripe with madness in NC as loyalties to legislators and layups were tested. But fret not, the Board of Elections will continue to administer elections and educate the public according to North Carolina law. If new legislation is passed, it will affect our procedures but not our commitment to compliance.

If you are interested in staying informed about election trends, I urge you to explore a site that offers loads of good info: www.electionline.org

And the NC House bill to restore confidence in government is here:

www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2011/Bills/House/HTML/H351v0.html

In joy,

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to

BE

rather

than

to

SEEM